

MULTI PIECE BEARING FOR TELESCOPING

STEERING COLUMN ASSEMBLY

ABSTRACT

A telescoping steering column assembly (10) includes upper (12) and lower (20) jackets having inner (14,22) and outer (16,24) surfaces and telescoping ends (28,30), (32,34), respectively, and two sleeves (40,50) disposed therebetween and having an annular cavity (46,56) defined within each of the sleeves (40,50) to hold bearings (36), (60) therewithin. One bearing (60) is connected to the upper jacket (12) and the other bearing (36) is connected to the lower jacket (20). A method of making the assembly (10) includes the steps of disposing the lower jacket (20) within the upper jacket (12) followed by disposing the sleeves (40,50) therebetween and injecting a plastic material (P) therethrough to form bearings (36,60). The plastic material (P) is extracted from one of the holes (18,66) in each of the jackets (12,20) to provide a sliding engagement between one of the bearing (60) and the lower jacket (20) and another bearing (36) and the upper jacket (12).